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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

RAY, GOPAL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2181

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/672,132

Applicant(s)

WATTS, LA VAUGHN F.

Examiner

Gopal C. Ray

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/27/00, 10/3/02 and 11/26/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 17-20 and 23-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-16, 21, 22 and 50-55 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Claims 1-55 are presented for examination.
2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The examiner believes that the title of the invention is broad. A descriptive title indicative of the invention will help in proper indexing, classifying, searching, etc. See MPEP 606.01. However, the title of the invention should be limited to 500 characters.
3. The drawings filed on 9/27/2000 are objected to by the USPTO draftsman. See PTO-948 for objections to the drawings. The drawings are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed. Direct any inquiries concerning drawing review by the USPTO draftsman to the Drawing Review Branch at (703) 305-8404.
4. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification. Moreover, all claims should be revised carefully to eliminate all grammatical errors and antecedent basis problems.
5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 23-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claims recite various circuits such as, integrated circuit, electrical circuit, application specific integrated circuit. etc. which are configurable by a computer program. However, the specification of the invention does not show any computer program to configure the above claimed circuits.

7. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph because of "a single means claim", i.e., "a docking device class circuit". A single means claim, i.e., where a means recitation does not appear in combination with another recited element of means, is subject to an undue breadth rejection under 35 U. S. C. 112, first paragraph. *In re Hyatt*, 708 F.2d 712, 714-715, 218 USPQ 195, 197 (Fed. Cir, 1983) (A single means claim which covered every conceivable means for achieving the stated purpose was held nonenabling for the scope of the claim because the

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specification disclosed at most only those means known to the inventor.). When claims depend on a recited property, a fact situation comparable to *Hyatt* is possible, where the claim covers every conceivable structure (means) for achieving the stated property (result) while the specification discloses at most only those known to the inventor. See MPEP 264.08(a).

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-10, 17-20 and 39-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,579,487 issued to Meyerson et al.

As per claim 1, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches "detecting a docking device class circuit present on the bus" in col. 2, lines 20-51; "obtaining a description of at least one device in a docking station from the docking device class circuit" in col. 2, lines 61-64 and col. 14, lines 59-67.

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As per claim 2, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches "controlling the at least one device via commands appropriate to the bus" in col. 14, lines 59-67.

As per claim 3, the reference of Meyerson et al. inherently teaches one of the claimed buses in Fig. 11, element 200.

As per claim 4, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches "controlling at least one device associated with docking" in col. 14, lines 59-67.

As per claims 5-7, the claims recite controlling and activating power supply to the docking station and portable computer. However, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches the features in col. 15, lines 55-56.

As per claims 8-10, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches "detecting an identifier associated with the docking device class circuit" (claim 8) in col. 2, lines 62-65, "detecting an identification number reserved for the docking device class circuit" (claim 9) in col. 2, lines 62-65 and "obtaining a list of devices under the control of the docking device class circuit" in col. 2, lines 36-51.

As per claims 17-19, the claims recite apparatuses which parallel method claims 1 and 6. In teaching the construction and

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use of the device, US Patent 5,579,487 issued to Meyerson et al. teaches corresponding apparatuses.

As per claim 20, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches the added limitation of the claim in Fig. 11, element 202 and col. 11, lines 10-15.

As per claims (39-40) and 41-49, the claims are rejected for the same reasons as discussed in the rejection of claims 1-10 respectively with the exception of a "signal bearing media, i.e., a recordable media or transmission media". However, the reference of Meyerson et al. teaches the feature in col. 2, lines 8-10.

10. Claims 11-16, 21, 22 and 50-55 are objected to as being dependent upon respective rejected base claims. If applicant is aware of any better prior art than those are cited, he is required to bring them to the attention of the examiner.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is urged to consider the references. However, the references should be evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosure. The prior art submitted by applicant has been considered by the examiner and made of record in the file.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gopal C. Ray whose telephone number is (703) 305-9647. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 746-7238 for "After-final", (703) 746-7239 "official" and (703) 746-7240 for "Non-official/Draft".

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [**mark.rinehart@uspto.gov**].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to TC2100 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Gopal C. Ray
GOPAL C. RAY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2180